

Message Text

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TAGS: UNIDO, OCON, PFOR, CU

SUBJECT: TENTH SESSION OF UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD -
QUESTION OF ELECTION TO CUBA TO BE VICE PRESIDENT

REF: VIENNA 3043

1. AS REPORTED SEPTTEL ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF IDB-X BUREAU ON OPENING DAY OF SESSION CONFINED TO ELECTION OF PRESIDENT IN ORDER TO PERMIT FURTHER EXPLORATION INFORMALLY AMONG GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS OF POSSIBILITY OF RESOLVING CUBAN PROBLEM ALONG LINES INDICATED PARA 4 REF TEL.

2. THREE DAYS OF INTENSIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION SAW THE LATIN AMERICANS REJECT THE PROPOSAL THAT ALL THREE VICE PRESIDENTS ELECTED TO THE BUREAU OF PC-VII BE REPLACED FOR THE BOARD SESSION. IN THE FACE OF MOUNTING IMPATIENCE DISPLAYED BY THE PRESIDENT, GROWING PRESSURE FROM GROUP D IN PLENARY FOR THE BOARD TO MOVE TO ELECT THE SAME BUREAU AS CHOSEN FOR PC-VII AND THE CONTINUING
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GROUP B INSISTENCE IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH

GROUP C THAT THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE MATTER OF THE CUBAN CANDIDANCY COULD NOT BE IGNORED, THE PLENARY ON APRIL 22 DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE ELECTION OF THE RAPPOREUR, MAKOWICZAK (POLAND) WAS ACCORDINGLY NOMINATED BY GROUP D AND ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION. IN THE MEANTIME, GROUP C, HAVING CONCLUDED ANOTHER CAUCUS ON THE CUBAN QUESTION, ENTERED THE PLENARY TO ANNOUNCE THAT IT HAD UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED IN THE FACE OF THE SITUATION WHICH HAD DEVELOPED NOT TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT FROM GROUP C. WITH THIS ANNOUNCEMENT THE PLENARY THEN PROCEEDED TO ELECT THE VICE PRESIDENTS FROM THE ASIAN GROUP AND GROUP B WHO HAD SERVED IN THIS OFFICE AT PC-VII.

3. THE SOVIET UNION, HOWEVER, WAS UNWILLING TO LET THE ANNOUNCED GROUP C DECISION LIE. IT INSISTED THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE A PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR IT, DEPLORING THE "PRESSURES" TO WHICH GROUP C HAD BEEN SUBJECTED IN THIS MATTER. IN THE ENSUING EXCHANGE CHINA TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEVEL A THINLY-VEILED ATTACK ON THE SOVIET REP, ASSERTING IN EFFECT THAT IT WAS WELL KNOWN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THE LEGAL IMPASSE IN RESPECT OF CUBA AND RESERVING ITS RIGHT TO EXPOUND LATER ON THE QUESTION OF WHO WAS PRESSURING WHOM.

4. DESPITE THE PRESIDENT'S ATTEMPTS TO PUT AN END TO THE DISCUSSION, CAMEROON INSISTED ON A LEGAL OPINION ON THE QUESTION WHETHER THE RULES OF PROCEDURE WOULD BE VIOLATED IF THE BOARD ELECTED A BUREAU OF ONLY FOUR RATHER THAN FIVE OFFICERS. ON APRIL 23 THE LEGAL LIAISON OFFICER RESPONDED WITH AN OPINION THAT LEGALLY IT WAS ALWAYS OPEN TO A GEOGRAPHIC GROUP NOT TO FILL ITS ALLOTTED POSITION ON THE BUREAU AND THAT THE BUREAU WAS ASSURED OF THE NECESSARY QUORUM TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH FOUR MEMBERS. THE CHAIR THEREUPON DECLARED THE DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER CLOSED.

5. COMMENT: THIS OUTCOME OF THE PROBLEM OF CUBA'S
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CANDIDACY IS BETTER THAN USDEL INITIALLY ANTICIPATED AND IS LARGELY THE RESULT OF THE CONTINUING SOLIDARITY OF GROUP B IN INSISTING THAT THE BOARD ACT CONSISTENTLY WITH THE LEGAL POSITION ESTABLISHED BY THE GA ELECTION OF CUBA AS A GROUP D MEMBER.
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